

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Version: First Engrossment

Authors: Kielkucki and Others

Subject: Returning the January Basic Skills Writing Test and Eliminating the Test Prompt

Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

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Overview

Minnesota public school students must pass a state basic skills writing test in order to graduate from high school. The writing test that schools administered in January asked tenth and eleventh grade students to write an essay describing something they would change about themselves. Some policymakers believe the essay question is intrusive and, consequently, the test should be returned to the students and the test question eliminated.

- 1 **Test results returned; prompt eliminated.** (a) Requires school districts to return to students their written response to the January 26, 2000, test prompt from the state's basic skills test for written composition within 15 days of receiving the students' scored responses. Prohibits district personnel from having access to the students' response for any purpose except to return the responses to the students.
(b) Prohibits any further use of the test prompt.
- 2 **Effective date.** Makes section 1 immediately effective.